



NEWS RELEASE

Chuck Wolfe
Chuck.Wolfe@ky.gov
Office of Public Affairs
502.564.3419

For Immediate Release

State snow and ice crews ‘ready to go’

Transportation Cabinet resources well-stocked and prepared

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 29, 2012) –Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) maintenance crews are prepared to combat ice and snow on Kentucky roadways.

The cabinet has nearly 2,000 KYTC employees standing by to treat and clear more than 60,000 lane miles of roads.

“The safety of Kentucky’s roadways is the focal point of our maintenance program this time of year,” Transportation Cabinet Secretary Mike Hancock said. “Our snow and ice teams are on the job and ready to go even before winter weather hits. I’m proud of their professionalism and dedication to service.”

The Department of Highways outfits approximately 1,000 trucks with front-end blades and salt spreading equipment. In addition, 380 snow removal contractors are available to assist when needed.

When wintry weather is forecasted, KYTC crews begin applying brine or calcium chloride solutions to prevent ice buildup on the roads and facilitate plowing. Crews currently have on hand about 1 million gallons of brine and 900,000 gallons of calcium chloride solution.

Crews also have nearly 416,000 tons of salt on hand. They used 97,000 tons last winter, which was unusually mild.

“We stockpile enough salt to get through what we anticipate to be a normal winter,” Division of Maintenance Director Nancy Albright said. “If we need additional salt, we’ll either purchase it from our contracted salt vendors or from other vendors when we can’t buy it from our current contract.”

Cold air aloft, combined with heavy rain from Hurricane Sandy, created conditions for an unusually early snowfall in high elevations of Eastern Kentucky. But KYTC crews have been readying plows, salt spreaders and other equipment for weeks.

“Our equipment and materials are prepared and our maintenance teams have completed their training – so we’re ready to go,” Albright said.

Motorists who encounter snow removal crews at work need to be patient and give snow plows a wide berth. Roadways cannot be cleared instantly. “It takes a little time, and our trucks have to operate at safe speeds,” Albright said.

###